

MANAGER
EMRYS EVANS — Emrys has proved a successful and popular manager since he came to Merthyr at the end of last season after an excellent spell as boss of the respected Rhonda club Ton Pentre. He is a firm believer in attacking football and has already built up a young and talented goal-scoring side.

DEFENCE
DON FAYNE — goalkeeper. Don is the veteran of the Merthyr team — before he joined the Southern League club last season he played for Torquay, Swansea City and Newport. A professional's keeper his positioning is immaculate and his handling sure. He lives in Swansea and works for the GPO.

JOHN PHILLIPS — right back. John is a local boy now in his second term with Merthyr. A qualified draughtman by profession he played more than 300 Southern League games for Barry before rejoining Merthyr last year.

TERRY MORGAN — left back. A very promising defender at the age of 18 Terry in his first season with Merthyr — he joined from Welsh League club Blaenau.

DAVID JONES — defender. David won the Merthyr 'player of the year' award last season in a mid-field role. After injury early on he won back his first team place in the defence. He joined Merthyr two years ago from top Welsh League side Briton Ferry.

CHRIS HOLVEY — defender. Chris, Wales 18 years of age, has played a vital role in Merthyr's cup successes this season. He is an apprentice steel worker at Ebbw Vale and played for the town's Welsh League side before joining Merthyr.

MIDFIELD
KIERON GOGGIN — left half. Another Merthyr lad, Kieron is a small but highly talented mid-field player and an impressive ball winner. Now aged 19 he had a spell with Hereford three years ago — he works in a local factory.

ALAN SULLIVAN — right half. 'Sully' is a graceful, intelligent but moody player who hails from Aberdare and has League experience with Swansea City. When in form makes up a dynamic mid-field duo with the Irishman Goggin.

GORDON DAVIES — outside right. Gordon, aged 20, is in his first full season with Merthyr after completing his teacher training studies at Manchester. Another Merthyr lad, he has excellent ball control and can be a devastating winger.

FORWARDS
PAUL CAVIEL — striker. Paul is a Merthyr boy, aged 23, who works as an electrician. He has been Welsh Decathlon Champion and was offered a trial by Newbridge Rugby Club before finally deciding football was his first love. A 100 per cent trier who has found the goal scoring touch this season.

MICKY LENIHAN — striker. A real goal stealer — Merthyr's top scorer last season with 29 Southern League goals — Micky played for Swansea City before joining Merthyr. He played a key role in the 4-0 FA Cup win over Cheltenham and scored two goals.

PAUL EDWARDS — outside left. Paul joined Merthyr this year as a defender but in recent games has successfully 'converted' to an outside left role. Aged just 18 Paul was signed from Bournemouth in the Rhonda Valley.

DOUG ROSSER — centre half. Doug is a winger who has been with Merthyr five years and is now club captain. Has been sorely missed in the past couple of months — he has had his wrist in plaster since the start of the season. Hopes to be fit for the Wycombe Wanderers match.

PAT MURPHY — defender. Another Merthyr boy who has had experience with Cardiff City and is now a schoolteacher. Paul has earned his place in the Merthyr squad as a replacement for the injured Doug Rosser.

Early k.o. if replay

SHOULD a replay be necessary after Wycombe Wanderers' game against Merthyr Tydfil in the fourth qualifying round of the F.A. Cup tomorrow (Saturday), it will be staged at Merthyr on Tuesday.

However, as the Welsh club do not possess floodlights, the kick off will be brought forward to 2 p.m.

WYCOMBE Wanderers, who have not failed to reach the second round of the F.A. Cup for the last three seasons, will be hoping for similar success tomorrow (Saturday) when they hit the Cup trail once again. The Blues meet Merthyr Tydfil at Loakes Park in the fourth qualifying round.

Manager Ted Powell was happy when the home draw against the Welshmen was announced last week. He is confident his team can reach the first round and has rested this week in the hope that he can select from a full-strength squad.

Powell is hoping his midfield player John Priestley will have recovered from his calf muscle injury that has kept him out for a fortnight. Priestley trained on Tuesday and Wednesday and his work rate would be an obvious asset to the Blues.

John Maskell, who missed Saturday's goalless draw at Leatherhead, is expected to have recovered from his 'bug' by tomorrow, but Peter Spittle stands by.

Wanderers, of course, will be without their big centre-forward, Howard Kettleborough, who is cup tied, having played for Dunstable in the first qualifying round before he signed for Wycombe. Kettleborough has made a great difference to Wycombe's forward play this term with his aerial strength proving a real bonus.

It will be interesting to see who replaces the centre-forward tomorrow. Tony Horseman seemed certain to return to the side after subbing last week, while Ian Pearson must be definite. This leaves the third forward spot to be contested by Dylan Evans and Tony Price. The latter looked good against Oxford University last week but has only played half-an-hour in a league match this season. I think the manager will plump for Evans' experience and stature, for the game might well be physics! early on.

ING MISSIONS

Both sides have been on spying missions in the last week. Blues assistant manager John Reardon watched Merthyr beat



WYCOMBE v MERTHYR PREVIEW BY STUART EARP

Tamworth 3-0 on Saturday while the Welshmen sent a representative to Leatherhead.

No cup game is ever easy but on paper, Wanderers must be favoured to reach round one. They play in a superior league to the Southern League Division One North and their class should tell.

Merthyr aim to be a team of the future under new manager Emrys Evans and a crop of talented young Welsh footballers. But Merthyr are also a team of the past — one of the most famous non-League football clubs in British Football and the Welsh club after Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Wrexham.

Rack in the 20's Merthyr Town were actually in the Third Division of the Football League. It was after the Second World War that Merthyr Tydfil, as the club then became known, really

made a name for themselves in the Southern League. They made the championship virtually their own property in the late 40's winning it outright three years out of four. In six seasons Merthyr were never out of the top four in the League.

Merthyr have also done well in the F.A. Cup and on at least half-a-dozen occasions they have reached the first round proper. In 1964 they played Swindon Town at Swindon but went down 5-1 before a crowd of 17,500. Merthyr have also been knocked out of the Cup by Bradford Ipswich and Bristol Rovers.

TRPHY SUCCESS

In recent years Merthyr have been less fortunate in the Cup but they have always done well in the F.A. Trophy. Last season they knocked those redoubtable Cup fighters from Yeovil out of the competition but then lost 3-1 to Tooting and Mitcham.

The glory days of the 40's disappeared in the recent past and as support drained away Merthyr Tydfil F.C. became another struggling Southern League team. Even the Penydarren Park floodlights went — blown down in a storm.

This season under a new manager Merthyr have won a lot of friends with their bright attacking football — they have scored 40 goals in 15 matches and are unbeaten after nine cup matches. Their Southern League Division One (North) record has been spoiled by some mediocre home results — twice Merthyr have thrown away two points against far less talented opponents.

DEMOLISHED

The highlight of the season so far has been Merthyr's cup performances. Gloucester were dispatched 4-1 in the opening round of the F.A. Cup and Cheltenham, who are also Southern League rivals, were finally demolished 4-0 in a second replay.

Against the attacking talents of the Merthyr side must be set their unfortunate deficiencies in defence. They must be the pool punters' dream with five score draws already this term. There is no doubt that Merthyr's opponents have had some soft goals — Cheltenham were allowed to equalise in the very last minute of extra time in the first F.A. Cup replay.

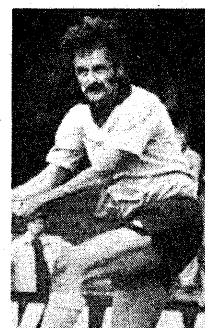
The return of skipper and centre-half Doug Rosser could make a vital difference to Emrys Evans' men — Rosser has been in full training for weeks but has not been able to get doctor's permission to take off the plaster on his damaged wrist.

ROTHMAN'S ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Wycombe | 20 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 32 | 20 | 37 |
| Hitchin | 17 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 26 | 18 | 36 |
| Ogtham | 17 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 18 | 34 |
| L'Ward | 19 | 10 | 2 | 7 | 27 | 19 | 32 |
| Tonbridge | 19 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 40 | 35 | 31 |
| Luton | 18 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 28 | 19 | 27 |
| Bishops | 18 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 27 | 23 | 26 |
| Enfield | 13 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 12 | 25 |
| Sutton | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 25 | 24 | 25 |
| Slough | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 14 | 24 |
| W'atow | 17 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 22 | 22 | 23 |
| Woking | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 19 | 23 |
| Hendon | 13 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 15 | 20 |
| Croydon | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 18 |
| Southall | 16 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 26 | 26 | 18 |
| Haves | 16 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 22 | 18 | 18 |
| Tilbury | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 17 |
| Staines | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 14 | 16 |
| Dulwich | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 24 | 13 |
| Barking | 13 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 13 | 25 | 10 |
| Kings | 14 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 25 | 10 |
| Ilford | 18 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 8 | 35 | 7 |



JOHN PRIESTLEY
... fitness bld



KETTLEBOROUGH
... cup tied